CLAIMS:

1. A system (1) for performing automatic dubbing on an incoming audio-visual stream (2), said system (1) comprising: means (3, 7) for identifying the speech content in the audio-visual stream (2); a speech-to-text converter (13) for converting the speech content into a digital text format (14); a translating system (15) for translating the digital text (14) into another language or dialect; a speech synthesizer (19) for synthesizing the translated text (18) into a speech output (21); and a synchronizing system (9, 12, 22, 23, 26, 31, 33, 34, 35) for synchronizing the speech output (21) to an outgoing audio-visual stream (28).

2. The system (1) of claim 1, containing a voice profiler (10) for generating voice profiles (11) for the speech content and for allocating the appropriate voice profile (11) to the translated text (14) for speech output synthesis.

3. The system (1) according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the system (1) contains a source of time data (4) for the allocation of timing information to the audio and video contents (4, 5) for later synchronisation of these contents.

4. The system (1) according to any preceding claim, wherein the translation system (15) contains a language database (17) with a plurality of different languages and/or dialects and means for selection of a language or dialect from this database (17) into which the digital text (14) is to be translated.

5. The system (1) according to any preceding claim, wherein the system (1) contains an open-caption generator (29) for the creation of open captions (30) using the digital text (14) and/or the translated digital text (18), for inclusion in an outgoing audio-visual stream (28).

6. An audio-visual device comprising a system (1) according to any of the preceding claims.

7. A method for automatic dubbing of an incoming audio-visual stream (2), which method comprises: identifying the speech content in the audio-visual stream (2); converting the speech content into a digital text format (14); translating the digital text (14) into another language or dialect; converting the translated text (18) into a speech output (21); synchronizing the speech output (21) to an outgoing audio-visual stream (28).

8. The method of claim 7, wherein voice profiles (11) for the speech content are generated and allocated to the appropriate translated text (18) in the synthesis of speech output (21).

9. The method of claim 7 or 8, wherein a copy of the speech content is diverted from the audio-visual stream (2) or from an audio content of the audio-visual stream (2).

10. The method of claim 7 or 8, wherein the speech content in the audio-visual stream (2) is separated from the remaining audio-visual stream or from an remaining audio content of the audio-visual stream (2).

11. The method according to any preceding claim, wherein an audio/video combiner (26) inserts the speech output (21) into the outgoing audio-visual stream (28), replacing the original speech content.

12. The method according to any preceding claim, wherein an audio/video combiner (26) overlays the speech output (21) into the outgoing audio-visual stream (28).